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AUTHOR	Piatt, Bill
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ABSTRACT

It is necessary to be blunt in approaching relations between brown and black Americans. Whether African Americans and Hispanic Americans want to admit it or not, in many areas they are in conflict that simmers and is not usually verbalized. Yet the two groups have much in common. Both arrived in what is now the United States before whites, and both have faced discrimination at the hands of whites, particularly with regard to education. For the largest part of the history of the United States, Black and Hispanic children have been educated separately from Whites and separately from each other. Blacks have faced overt segregation, and Hispanics have faced the segregation caused by tracking and exclusion. Even when Blacks and Hispanics are able to enroll in a quality public school, the unequal enforcement of discipline causes additional problems. Affirmative action policies have helped ease discrimination in higher education, but these policies are under attack. In the future, it may be that the only Hispanic and African American students who scholarships and admission to higher education programs are academic superstars. Minorities may find themselves competing for educational crumbs, a fact that will not improve relations between black and brown Americans at a time when cooperation, mutual support, and understanding will be even more important when whites are no longer the majority in the United States. The following chapters are in this book: (1) "The Way We Are"; (2) "How Did We Get Here?"; (3) "Who Are We Really?"; (4) "Jobs: Competing for a Shrinking Pie?"; (5) "Education: A Crumbling Commitment"; (6) "Language: Speaking to, and about, One Another" ; (7) "Gangs"; (8) "Voting: Coalition or Collision?"; and (9) "Bringing Us Together." (SLD)

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